



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

# NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS



IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

---

TRANSPLANTATION OF KIDNEYS.—*The New York Medical Journal* refers to an article in *The Journal of Experimental Medicine* stating that the author successfully transplanted the kidneys from one cat to another.

---

THE BEST THINGS IN THERAPEUTICS.—In *The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* Dr. Gustavus Eliot gives the following drugs as of greatest value, both to the practitioner and to the patient: 1, Mercury in syphilis; 2, the salicylates in rheumatism; 3, quinine in malarial affections; 4, antitoxine serum in diphtheria; 5, aconite in the fever of acute diseases; 6, digitalis in chronic heart disease; 7, alcohol in cardiac weakness of acute disease; 8, ergot in uterine and pulmonary hæmorrhage; 9, creosote in diseases of the respiratory organs; and 10, the bromides in nervousness.

---

THERAPEUTICAL ACTION OF RADIUM IN CUTANEOUS TUBERCULOSIS.—*The New York Medical Journal*, quoting from *La Presse Medicale*, says: Wickham and Degrais speak of the effects produced by radium on several forms of tuberculous skin disease, and conclude that, in their opinion, radium can render good service in every form of cutaneous tuberculosis, and that it deserves a place in the treatment of granulations, tuberculous ulcerations, lupus of the conjunctiva, of the vicious cicatrices which follow lupus erythematosus.

---

CLEANING INSTRUMENTS.—*The Dental Cosmos* states that to remove coating from instruments which have been boiled use of prepared chalk, ammonia, and alcohol, each 2 parts, water 4 parts. Rub the instruments with a cloth saturated with this solution, then rub them dry with another cloth.

---

SUDDEN DEATH IN PNEUMONIA.—In *The Medical Record*, Dr. Parker Worster advocates cold application in severe cases of collapse in

pneumonia. He says that the excitation of cold is the most powerful and energetic agent for combating such collapse and can be accomplished in the following manner: A bathtub of water at 100°F. to extend just above the patient's hips is prepared and the patient placed in it or held in a semirecumbent position, and several basins of water at 60° or lower, as the case may indicate, are poured over his shoulders, chest, and back, the operator standing on a chair and holding the water as high as possible so as to get the required force. Such a procedure, if the patient is unconscious or delirious, will often arouse him to consciousness and brighten his eye, and his countenance will wake up from its apathetic appearance, his shallow respiration will become deeper, and the excitation of the cold upon his bronchial tubes will cause him to cough and expectorate and free them from mucus and his air cells from threatened hypostasis, his cyanosed and marble skin will become ruddier, the capillary circulation will be reestablished, and the heart will gain in force and diminish in frequency. This procedure will positively change the whole aspect of the case, and perhaps only one application will suffice to save the life of that patient.

---

THE USE OF ANTHRACITE COAL ASH AS A SURGICAL DRESSING.—*The Journal of the American Medical Association* records that Clark has made experiments with anthracite coal ash pads as surgical dressings. He concludes that in cases where gauze cannot be obtained or the expense is too great, ash pads form a good substitute. In freely discharging sinuses and suppurating wounds the discharge will be well taken care of. When the discharge is thick and gummy, or where weight or bulk of dressing is contraindicated, they should not be used. They are particularly applicable to discharging wounds of the axilla, popliteal space, and palm of the hand, because they fit snugly and tend to splint the part. They are also well suited to varicose ulcers and discharging sinuses of the abdomen. The ash pad is made in the following manner: The ash collected from the furnace is placed in a flour sifter and thoroughly sifted. It will be found to fall on a sheet of paper as a soft, brownish, floury powder. This is all the preparation necessary. A piece of old sheet or well washed linen is cut in rectangular shape and of any desired size. The square is placed on a table and a small pile of the ash is placed in the centre. The sheeting or linen is then folded over it, as in making a poultice. Such a pad can be made rapidly, and when examined will be found soft, compact, and absorbent. It can be nicely adjusted to any part of the body with adhesive plaster straps. After

an ash pad has been applied to a discharging wound for some time it becomes moulded to the part, as the ash loses its powdery consistency owing to absorption. It has then the consistence of dough, and acts as a partial splint, being more comfortable than otherwise.

---

**MIGRAINE.**—*The New York Medical Journal* in a synopsis of an article in *The British Medical Journal* says: Dobson states that the word "migraine" is the shortened form of hemicrania, and represents a definite entity, and must not be used for headaches in general. Migraine is a functional disease, characterized by paroxysmal attacks of headache, usually one sided, and which may be associated with sickness, peculiar affections of sight, and various mental symptoms. Migraine is looked upon as hereditary, but it is probably the tendency to a neurosis which is inherited. Women are supposed to suffer more than men, but the writer holds the contrary. As to the primary cause of the disease, we can only say there is a hereditary predisposition to a brain storm. When we come to the immediate or exciting causes, it is generally found that mental or bodily fatigue, worry, or eye strain are responsible. Three classes of migraine may be recognized: 1, Simple hemicrania, typical in that it is unilateral and responds to every arterial beat; it recurs every few weeks. 2, Sick headache, again periodical; unilateral headache, culminating in nausea, followed by vomiting and prostration; hereditary. 3, Blind headache. Other and more alarming symptoms which may be grafted on any case of migraine are tingling of lips or the arm, numbness of arm, drowsiness, motor aphasia, and squint (temporary paralysis of the third nerve). The headache is typical in that it responds to every heart beat, is made intolerable by stooping or coughing, and is in the great majority of cases unilateral. The character of the headache, its periodicity, and usual association with vomiting or blindness makes the diagnosis easy. The attack is one of a large group of nerve storms which are liable to sweep over the human organism—epilepsy, spasmodic asthma, tic douloureux, and others. Certain constitutions seem to accumulate stores of nervous energy, which are liberated by one of these explosive methods. Treatment consists in:

1. To lessen the tendency to the explosive action in the nervous centres. Here may be pointed out the necessity for a sufficiency of sleep, nutritious food, but not excessive in quantity, prevention of intestinal fermentation, and regular exercise.
2. To avoid the immediate exciting causes. These are gastric disturbance, constipation, and eye strain. In migraine there is no deterioration of mind.